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Claim Amendments

Claims 1-56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (previously presented):

A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

a first and second rake units; and

the first rake unit having a first rake head, and a first rake handle coupled to the first rake head; and

the second rake unit having a second rake head, and a second rake handle coupled to the second rake head; and

each of the first and second rake heads having an external side and an inner side; and

each of the first and second rake heads having a lower end and an upper end, wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake heads have a plurality of prongs forming a first plane; and

a first grip handle attached to the first rake handle, and a second grip handle attached to the second rake handle, wherein each of the first and second grip handles form a second plane substantially parallel to the first plane, wherein the first and second grip handles and the first and second rake heads are facing toward each other when the picking rake is used for picking up debris; and

wherein the first grip handle has a first portion and the second grip handle has a second portion, and one of the first and second portions has a first connecting means for holding the right and left rake units in a side by side

relationship along their inner sides when the picking rake is used for raking yard debris; and

each of the first and second rake handles having lower and upper ends, wherein the lower ends are removably connected to the respective upper ends of the first and second rake heads, and wherein one of the upper ends of the first and second rake handles has an aperture through which a second connecting means is extended for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting the first and second rake handles; and

wherein at least one of the first and second grip handles are located at a midsection of at least one of the first and second rake handles, and the first and second grip handles are located substantially remote from the upper ends of the first and second rake heads.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The picking rake for collecting yard debris of claim 57, wherein the first and second rake heads have a third connecting means for holding the first and second rake heads in a side by side relationship when the picking rake is used for raking yard debris.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The picking rake for collecting yard debris of claim 57, wherein the first connecting means have an attaching means being secured to one of the first and second grip portions.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The picking rake for collecting yard debris of claim 57, wherein the first connecting means of one of the first and second grip portions resiliently snaps onto and hold the other one of

the first and second grip portions when the picking rake is used for raking yard debris.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The picking rake for collecting yard debris of claim 57, wherein one of the first and second rake handles comprises at least two telescoping tubes whereby the telescoping tubes can be extended when gathering debris and retracted when picking debris.

Claims 62 - 77 (canceled)

Claim 78 (currently amended): The handle in claim 77 105 wherein the exposed terminal of the hand grip is further extended to meet the arm leverage.

Claim 79 (currently amended): The handle in claim 77 105 further including:

- a) at least one second elongated member dimensionally receivable inside the first elongated member, and
 - b) cooperating retaining means on the first and second elongated members for telescoping the second elongated member in and out of the first elongated member, and
- whereby the second elongated member is extended for gathering and retracted for picking.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The picking rake in claim 57 further including telescoping means on one of the rake handles comprising:

a) at least one elongated member dimensionally receivable inside one of the first and second rake handles, and

b) cooperating retaining means on the elongated member and on one of the first and second rake handles for telescoping the elongated member in and out of one of the first and second rake handles, and

whereby the elongated member is extended for raking and retracted for picking.

Claim 81 (currently amended): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

a first and second rake units; and
the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and

the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and

wherein each of the first and second rake heads ~~have~~
has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and

wherein each of the first and second rake heads ~~have~~
has a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower ends end of each of the rake heads ~~each~~ has a plurality of prongs; and

wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and

wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly

and pivotally holding and fixedly connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the ~~third~~ second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 82 (currently amended): The picking rake in claim 81 wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a) a first aperture on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and
- b) a second aperture on the other rake handle disposed nearest the first aperture, and
- c) a cord, chain, or equivalent flexible elongated material, and
- d) wherein the flexible elongated material is threaded through the first and second apertures and closed off at each end with a ~~retaining knot.~~ retainer.

Claim 83 (currently amended): The picking rake in claim 81 wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a) ~~a first aperture on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and~~
- b) ~~a second aperture on the other rake handle disposed nearest the first aperture, and~~
- c) a) a chain comprising at least two links, said chain having a first link on one end and a last link on the other end, and
- d) b) wherein the first link is secured to ~~one of the first and second apertures, the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles,~~ and
- e) c) wherein the last link is secured to a section of the other of the first and second apertures. rake handles closest the first link.

Claim 84 (currently amended): The picking rake in claim 81 wherein the connecting mean comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a) ~~a first aperture on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and~~

- ↳ a) a first ring secured to the ~~first aperture upper end of one of the first and second rake handles~~, and
- b) a second ring ~~disposed and retained on secured to~~ a section of the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first ring, and
- ↳ c) means for turning ~~the second ring at least one of the rings at least substantially 90 degrees freely around the orthogonal cross-sectional perimeter of the other one of the first and second rake handles, and handle it is on, and~~
- d) wherein the first ring is linked to the second ring.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The picking rake in claim 81 wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a) a first screw eye mounted on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and
- b) a second screw eye mounted on the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first screw eye, and
- c) a first ring linking the first screw eye to the second screw eye.

Claim 86 (previously presented): The picking rake in claim 81 wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a) a first aperture on one of the first and second rake handles, and

- b) a second aperture on the other of the first and second rake handles disposed closest to the first aperture, and
- c) a ring of size capable of being loosely threaded to the first and second apertures.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The picking rake in claim 81 wherein one of the first and second the inner sides overlap the other of the first and second inner sides, whereby the other of the first and second inner sides abuts the overlapping inner side of one of the first and second rake heads.

Claim 88 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

- a first and second rake units; and
- the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle coupled to the first rake head; and
- the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle coupled to the second rake head; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake heads has an external side and an inner side; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end, wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake heads have a plurality of prongs; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake handles has an external side and an inner side; and
- wherein the first rake handle comprises a first elongated member and a first hand grip and the second rake handle comprises a second elongated member and a second hand grip; and

wherein each of the first and second elongated members has a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower ends of the first and second elongated members are coupled to the upper ends of their respective rake heads; and

wherein the first and second hand grips each comprise a branch extending substantially transversely outwardly from their respective elongated members at a section intermediate the upper ends of their respective rake heads and the upper ends of their respective elongated members; and

connecting means on at least one of the rake units for joining the two rake units towards the inner sides of the rake heads, the handles substantially parallel and next to each other, side-by-side along their inner sides on a first infinite plane, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head also on the first infinite plane, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span; and

wherein said connecting means comprise a resilient member disposed on one of the first and second handles; and

wherein the resilient member has an opening capable of receiving the outer dimensions of an adjacent section of the other of the first and second rake handles; and

wherein the resilient member is snapped onto the other of the first and second rake handles in an inwardly side-directed motion when the rake units are joined together for raking; and

wherein the resilient member is snapped off the other of the first and second rake handles in an outwardly side-directed motion when the rake units are detached for picking; and

wherein the first and second hand grips and the first and second rake heads are facing toward each other when the picking rake is used for picking up debris.

Claim 89 (new): A picking rake in claim 88 further including abutment means to abut the two rake units together.

Claim 90 (new): The picking rake in claim 89 wherein the abutment means comprise a recess disposed on a section of one of the rake handles, the recess sized to snugly receive the inner and outer dimensions of the resilient member.

Claim 91 (new): The picking rake in claim 89 wherein the abutment means comprise overlapping rake heads.

Claim 92 (new): The picking rake in claim 88 further including arm leveraging means.

Claim 93 (new): The picking rake in claim 88 wherein said connecting means further comprise:

- a) a first aperture on said resilient member,
- b) a second aperture disposed on a predetermined section of the other of the first and second rake handles,
- c) a snap button disposed inside the predetermined section of the other of the first and second rake handles, said snap button having a positioning head, said positioning head outwardly engaged in the second aperture,
- d) wherein the resilient member snaps and holds other of the first and second rake handles, the

positioning head further engaging outwardly into the first aperture when the two rake units are joined for raking debris, and

- e) wherein the snap button head is depressed inwardly to disengage from the first aperture when the two rake units are detached for picking debris.

Claim 94 (new): The picking rake in claim 88 further including:

- a) at least a third elongated member dimensionally receivable inside one of the first and second elongated members, and
- b) cooperating retaining means on the third member and on one of the first and second elongated members for telescoping the third elongated member in and out of one of the first and second elongated members, and

whereby the third elongated member is extended when raking and retracted when picking.

Claim 95(new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

 a first and second rake units; and
 the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle coupled to the first rake head; and
 the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle coupled to the second rake head; and
 wherein each of the first and second rake heads has an external side and an inner side; and
 wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end, wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake heads have a plurality of prongs; and

wherein the first rake handle comprises a first elongated member and a first hand grip and the second rake handle comprises a second elongated member and a second hand grip; and

wherein each of the first and second elongated members has a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower ends of the first and second elongated members are coupled to the upper ends of their respective rake heads; and

wherein the first and second hand grips each comprise a branch extending substantially transversely outwardly from their respective elongated members at a section intermediate the upper ends of their respective rake heads and the upper ends of their respective elongated members; and

connecting means on at least one of the rake units for joining the two rake units, the handles substantially parallel and next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total rake span; and

wherein said connecting means comprise:

- a) a tube disposed along the elongated member of one of the first and second rake handles, said tube having a first aperture,
- b) a second aperture disposed on a predetermined section of the elongated member of the other of the first and second rake handles,
- c) a snap button disposed inside the predetermined section of the elongated member of the other of the first and second rake handles, said snap button having a positioning

head, the positioning head engaged outwardly of the second aperture,

d) wherein the tube snugly receives the section of the elongated member of the other of the first and second rake handles when the section is inserted into the tube, the positioning head further engaging outwardly of the first aperture when the rake units are joined for raking debris, and

e) wherein the snap button head is depressed inwardly from the first aperture while one of the rake handles is pulled out of the tube for picking debris, and

wherein the first and second hand grips and the first and second rake heads are facing toward each other when the picking rake is used for picking debris.

Claim 96 (new): The picking rake in claim 95 further including abutment means comprising overlapping rake heads.

Claim 97 (new): The picking rake in claim 95 further including arm leverage means.

Claim 98 (new): The picking rake in claim 95 further including:

- a) at least a third elongated member dimensionally receivable inside one of the first and second elongated members, and
- b) cooperating retaining means on the third member and on one of the first and second elongated members, and

whereby the third elongated member is extended when raking and retracted when picking.

Claim 99 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

- a first and second rake units; and
- the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and
- the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end; and
- wherein the lower end of each of the rake heads has a plurality of prongs; and
- wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and
- wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and
- wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and
- wherein the connecting means is selected from a group consisting of the following or their equivalents:
 - A) connecting means comprising:
 - a. a first aperture on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and

- b. a second aperture on the other rake handle disposed nearest the first aperture, and
 - c. a cord, chain or equivalent flexible elongated material, and
 - d. wherein the flexible elongated material is threaded through the first and second apertures and closed off at each end with a retainer; and
- B) connecting means comprising:
- a. a chain comprising at least two links, said chain having a first link on one end and a last link on the other end, and
 - b. wherein the first link is secured to the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and
 - c. wherein the last link is secured to a section of the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first link; and
- C) connecting means comprising:
- a. a first ring secured to the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and
 - b. a second ring secured to a section of the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first ring, and
 - c. means for turning at least one of the rings at least substantially 90 degrees freely around the orthogonal cross-sectional perimeter of the handle it is on, and
 - d. wherein the first ring is linked to the second ring; and
- D) connecting means comprising:
- a. a first screw eye mounted on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and

b. a second screw eye mounted on the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first screw eye, and

c. a first ring linking the first screw eye to the second screw eye; and

E) connecting means comprising:

a. a first aperture on one of the first and second rake handles,

b. a second aperture on the other of the first and second rake handles disposed closest to the first aperture, and

c. a ring of size capable of being loosely threaded to the first and second apertures,

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles

alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 100 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

a first and second rake units; and
the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and

the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and

wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and

wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower end of each of the rake heads has a plurality of prongs; and

wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and

wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and

wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a. a first aperture on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and
- b. a second aperture on the other rake handle disposed nearest the first aperture, and
- c. a cord, chain, or equivalent flexible elongated material, and
- d. wherein the flexible elongated material is threaded through the first and second apertures and closed off at each end with a retainer, and

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 101 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

a first and second rake units; and

the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and

the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and

wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and

wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower end of each of the rake heads has a plurality of prongs; and

wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and

wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and

wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a. a chain comprising at least two links, said chain having a first link on one end and a last link on the other end, and
- b. wherein the first link is secured to the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and
- c. wherein the last link is secured to a section of the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first link, and

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 102 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

a first and second rake units; and
the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and
the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and
wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and
wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end; and
wherein the lower end of each of the rake heads has a plurality of prongs; and
wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and
wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and
wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and
wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a. a first ring secured to the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and

- b. a second ring secured to a section of the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first ring, and
- c. means for turning at least one of the rings at least substantially 90 degrees freely around the orthogonal cross-sectional perimeter of the handle it is on, and
- d. wherein the first ring is linked to the second ring; and

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 103 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

a first and second rake units; and
the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and
the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and
wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and
wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end; and
wherein the lower end of each of the rake heads has a plurality of prongs; and
wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and
wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and
wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and
wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:

- a. a first screw eye mounted on the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles, and

- b. a second screw eye mounted on the other of the first and second rake handles closest the first screw eye, and
- c. a first ring linking the first screw eye to the second screw eye; and

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 104 (new): A picking rake for collecting yard debris comprising:

- a first and second rake units; and
- the first rake unit having a first rake head and a first rake handle; and
- the second rake unit having a second rake head and a second rake handle; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a first and second external side and a first and second inner side respectively; and
- wherein each of the first and second rake heads has a lower end and an upper end; and
- wherein the lower end of each of the rake heads has a plurality of prongs; and
- wherein each rake handle comprise an elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and
- wherein the lower ends of the first and second rake handles are coupled to the upper ends of the first and second rake heads respectively; and
- wherein the upper end of one of the first and second rake handles has part of a connecting means for flexibly and pivotally holding and connecting to the other one of the first and second rake handles; and
- wherein the connecting means comprise the following or their equivalents:
 - a. a first aperture on one of the first and second rake handles, and
 - b. a second aperture on the other of the first and second rake handles disposed closest to the first aperture, and

c. a ring of size capable of being loosely threaded to the first and second apertures; and

wherein the connecting means allow motion of the two rake handles in a cycle from a first position to a second position and back to the first position; and

wherein the first position comprise the rake handles substantially parallel and adjacent each other, the inner sides of the rake heads next to each other, the lower ends of the rake heads aligned forming substantially one functional rake head, at least one rake head contributing to the total raking span and substantially lying on the same plane; and

wherein the motion leading to the second position comprise a first operation wherein at least one of the rake handles is separately flexed to turn about an azimuthal axis substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the rake handles, resulting in the second position wherein the rake heads are substantially facing each other; and

wherein a picking operation in the second position comprise swinging at least one of the rake handles alternately inwardly toward and outwardly away from the other rake handle; and

wherein the motion leading back to the first position comprise the reverse of the first operation;

whereby the first position is adapted for raking debris and the second position is adapted for grasping debris between the facing rake heads and for releasing the debris into a receptacle.

Claim 105 (new): A handle for picking yard debris comprising:

a substantially straight elongated member having a lower end and an upper end; and

wherein the lower end of the elongated member can be coupled to a rake-like holding head; and

wherein the holding head and the elongated member lie substantially on a first infinite horizontal plane when coupled, the elongated member having a right side and a left side; and

a hand grip comprising a first branch extending from the elongated member above the upper end of the holding head and towards the right side at an angle substantially transversely proximally greater than acute; and

an arm leverage comprising a second branch extending substantially transversely from the elongated member intermediate the hand grip and the upper end of the elongated member; and

wherein the extent of the second branch range from one substantially vertical member to a structure resembling a partial loop for access from a direction lateral to the axis of the forearm of a user; and

wherein the partial loop extends towards the right side; and

wherein the handle has an inner side defined by the left side of the elongated member; and

wherein the inner side of the handle has a portion with a cylindrical cross section for detachably receiving the inner dimensions of a resilient connecting means of another handle delivered adjacent the inner side of the handle on the first infinite horizontal plane; and

whereby another handle unit with a longer elongated member and a resilient connecting means can be detachably

connected side-by-side to said handle to produce a picking rake.